

## **EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTION AND EDUCATION**

A successful early childhood intervention program for a child who is deaf or hard of hearing involves a team of professionals with the parents acting as the “team managers.” It is imperative for the parents to be actively involved in the process as soon as their child’s hearing loss is diagnosed, as they need to incorporate all learning and language strategies into the home environment. The team may include a health professional (e.g., a family doctor, a pediatrician, an audiologist or an ear, nose and throat doctor), a service coordinator, a speech and language pathologist, and a teacher of the deaf or hard of hearing. A good starting point is to contact the California Department of Developmental Services. They have a statewide program called Early Start, which, in conjunction with local education agencies, will develop a complete plan for the child and the family.

Some programs utilize the manual communication method which may include the teaching of American Sign Language (ASL) or manual English (a method which uses many of the ASL signs while maintaining English word order) as a means of developing both fluency in sign language and English. Other programs (referred to as the oral method) prefer not to use manual communication, but to concentrate more on speech, language and auditory building skills to facilitate communication with hearing individuals. Two programs in California, the Blind Children’s Learning Center and the California School for the Blind, provide early childhood education for children who are deaf-blind, blind or visually impaired.

### **EARLY START PROGRAM**

#### **California Department of Developmental Services (DDS)**

P.O. Box 944202

Sacramento, CA 94244

Early Start: (800) 515-2229

(916) 654-1690 (Voice)

(916) 654-2054 (TTY)

Website: [www.dds.ca.gov/earlystart](http://www.dds.ca.gov/earlystart)

E-mail: [earlystart@dds.ca.gov](mailto:earlystart@dds.ca.gov)

Infants and toddlers from birth to 36 months may be eligible for early intervention services if it is determined that they have a hearing loss. Evaluation services are available to all children who are eligible and anyone may make a referral. A parent may contact a local regional center or school district for evaluation and early intervention services and a service coordinator will be assigned to the family to develop an Individualized Family Service Plan which will include a team of support staff. Local education agencies are primarily responsible for provision of services and all services are at no charge to the families.

## ***SCHOOLS THAT USE THE MANUAL COMMUNICATION METHOD***

### **CALIFORNIA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF, FREMONT- Early Childhood Education (ECE)**

39350 Gallaudet Drive

Fremont, CA 94538

(510) 794-2536 (Voice/TTY)

Website: [www.csdf.k12.ca.us/academics/ece](http://www.csdf.k12.ca.us/academics/ece)

E-mail: [rdaniels@csdf-cde.ca.gov](mailto:rdaniels@csdf-cde.ca.gov)

This program serves children in the Fremont, Union City and Newark areas. Both California Schools for the Deaf at Fremont and Riverside provide residential living facilities for children in grades 1-12; however, these early intervention programs are provided on a daily basis. Services provided include: audiological assessment; auditory training; loaner hearing aids; parent education classes and workshops; family sign language classes; home visitation and training; speech and language training and a Shared Reading Project. The Parent-Infant Services program, the Toddler Program and the Preschool and Kindergarten Programs serve children from birth to 6 years of age.

### **CALIFORNIA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF, RIVERSIDE Early Childhood Education (ECE)**

3044 Horace Street

Riverside, CA 92506

(951) 782-6500 (Voice)

Website: [www.csdr-cde.ca.gov](http://www.csdr-cde.ca.gov)

This program provides services for children that reside in the Riverside Unified School District. The services provided include: speech and language training; audiological services; literacy training; ASL instruction as a tool for later speech and language acquisition; parent and family participation; home visits with parents and children and family sign language classes. The Parent-Infant Program, the Preschool Program, Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Programs are designed for children 18 months to 6 years of age.

### **CENTER FOR EARLY INTERVENTION ON DEAFNESS (C.E.I.D.)**

1035 Grayson Street

Berkeley, CA 94710

(510) 848-4800, ext. 301

(510) 848-5686 (TTY)

Website: [www.ceid.org](http://www.ceid.org)

E-mail: [program@ceid.org](mailto:program@ceid.org)

The CEID is an early intervention program, serving families who reside throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. The program is designed for babies and young children who have hearing loss and severe speech and language delays. This organization utilizes a simultaneous use of spoken English, audition and a literal representation of sign language (S.E.E. signing), in a play based

curriculum incorporating thematic "active learning" strategies and total family involvement. The program is designed for children aged 12 months to 5 years.

In addition to the model program listed above, CEID has expanded direct services to include the ***Medical Outreach and Training Project***. This program allows CEID to train pediatric medical providers at three teaching hospitals (University of California at San Francisco, Children's Hospital – Oakland and Kaiser Permanente) about diagnosing deafness at birth and referring them to CEID for training. CEID has also developed a ***Pediatric Resource Guide to Infant and Childhood Hearing Loss*** which can be found at: [www.ceid.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=29&Itemid=39](http://www.ceid.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=29&Itemid=39).

## ***SCHOOLS THAT USE THE ORAL COMMUNICATION METHOD***

### **CCHAT CENTER-SACRAMENTO**

#### **Children's Choice for Hearing And Talking**

11100 Coloma Road

Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

(916) 361-7290 (Voice)

Website: [www.oraldeafed.org/schools/cchatsac](http://www.oraldeafed.org/schools/cchatsac)

E-mail: [info@cchatsac.org](mailto:info@cchatsac.org)

CCHAT-Sacramento, an auditory/oral school, teaches children who are deaf and hard of hearing to listen, think and talk. The CCHAT Center promotes active parent involvement including participation in class, therapy and school wide activities. Services provided include: individual speech; language and auditory therapy; cochlear implant education and parent education and support groups. This program serves children from ages 8 weeks to 5 years of age.

### **CCHAT CENTER-SAN DIEGO**

#### **Children's Choice for Hearing And Talking**

221 Pawnee Street

San Marcos, CA 92078

(760) 471-5187 (Voice/TTY)

Website: [www.cchatsan.org](http://www.cchatsan.org)

E-mail: [elizabeth@cchatsan.org](mailto:elizabeth@cchatsan.org)

The CCHAT Center is a specialized center where children who are deaf or hard of hearing learn to listen and talk. The program focuses on development of listening skills, acquisition of language, speech and cognition for children birth to age 3 and classroom/individual instruction for children who are 2 to 8 years of age. The program focus is to teach parents how to teach their children oral communication skills as soon as the child's hearing loss is diagnosed. Instruction and training is for children from birth to 5 years of age.

## **HEARING AND SPEECH CENTER OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA**

1234 Divisadero Street  
San Francisco, CA 94115  
(415) 921-7658 (Voice)  
(415) 921-8990 (TTY)

Website: [www.hearingspeech.org](http://www.hearingspeech.org)

E-mail: [info@hearingspeech.org](mailto:info@hearingspeech.org)

The Deaf and Hard of Hearing School Program at this facility works with children from birth to 18 years of age. The preschool program works with children as young as 18 months of age at their on-site campus. The staff works closely with the families during home visits, parent group meetings and other yearly activities. Individual programs are designed for children to utilize all modes of amplification and to develop their speech, language and listening skills. The goal is to prepare children to be successfully mainstreamed in regular classrooms as soon as they are deemed ready.

## **JEAN WEINGARTEN PENINSULA ORAL SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF**

3518 Jefferson Avenue  
Redwood City, CA 94062  
(650) 365-7500

Website: [www.deafkidstalk.org](http://www.deafkidstalk.org)

The program at the Jean Weingarten Peninsula School Oral School for the Deaf focuses on the development of auditory, language, speech and cognitive skills in children with hearing aids and cochlear implants. Services provided include: auditory training; speech and language training and family support groups and training. The program accepts children birth to 7 years of age.

## **JOHN TRACY CLINIC**

806 West Adams Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90007  
(213) 748-5481 (Voice)  
(800) 522-4582 (Voice)  
(213) 747-2924 (TTY)

Website: [www.johntracyclinic.org](http://www.johntracyclinic.org)

The John Tracy Clinic provides parent-centered education programs for newborns, toddlers and preschool children who are deaf and hard of hearing and reside in the Southern California area. All services are free of charge and include: comprehensive pediatric audiological testing; speech and language training; parent classes and support groups and counseling and evaluation that emphasizes early diagnosis and intervention. Children served in this program range from birth to 5 years of age.

## ***SCHOOLS WITH SERVICES FOR THE DEAF/BLIND***

### **BLIND CHILDREN'S LEARNING CENTER**

18542-B Vanderlip Avenue

Santa Ana, CA 92705

(714) 573-8888

(714) 573-4944 (Fax)

Website: [www.blindkids.org](http://www.blindkids.org)

E-mail: [linn.morgan@blindkids.org](mailto:linn.morgan@blindkids.org)

The mission of the Blind Children's Learning Center is to develop the full potential of children and young adults who are blind, visually impaired and deaf-blind (birth to 21 years of age) to lead independent lives through technology and teaching. The core programs are Infant Family Focus, Early Childhood Center and Youth Outreach and Counseling. Comprehensive services, starting as early as possible and continuing through high school, include: speech and language, occupational therapy, orientation and mobility, Braille instruction, specialized vision services, social opportunities and assistive and adaptive technology training.

### **CALIFORNIA SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND**

500 Walnut Avenue

Fremont, CA 94536

(510) 794-3800

Website: [www.csb-cde.ca.gov](http://www.csb-cde.ca.gov)

E-mail: [askcsb@csb-cde.ca.gov](mailto:askcsb@csb-cde.ca.gov)

This educational program, through the California Department of Education, provides special day classes for children between 3 to 22 years of age who are blind, visually impaired and deaf-blind. Students must be referred jointly by parents and school districts of residence. There is a residential component for those living too far to travel home daily. A separate comprehensive Assessment Center for students not enrolled in the school program is available for eligible individuals.

## ***ADDITIONAL EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTION RESOURCES***

### **AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS**

#### **Newborn and Infant Hearing Loss: Detection and Intervention**

Website: [aappolicy.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/pediatrics;103/2/527](http://aappolicy.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/pediatrics;103/2/527)

This abstract outlines and endorses the primary objectives, important components and recommended screening parameters that characterize an effective universal newborn hearing screening program.

### **BEGINNINGS FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING**

P.O. Box 17646

Raleigh, NC 27619

(919) 850-2746 (Voice/TTY)

Website: [www.ncbegin.org](http://www.ncbegin.org)

E-mail: [info@beginningssvcs.com](mailto:info@beginningssvcs.com)

This non-profit organization provides emotional support and access to information for families with children ages birth through 21 who are deaf or hard of hearing. In addition to providing information to parents of children who are deaf, Beginnings gives technical assistance to the professionals who work with these children.

### **BOYS TOWN NATIONAL RESEARCH HOSPITAL**

555 North 30th Street

Omaha, NE 68131

(402) 498-6511

Website: [www.boystownhospital.org/Hearing](http://www.boystownhospital.org/Hearing)

This hospital provides leading edge research in the identification of hearing loss, fitting of hearing aids and educational materials for children with hearing loss and their parents.

### **INNOVATIONS WORKING WITH INFANTS WHO HAVE MULTIPLE DISABILITIES**

Website: [www.csun.edu/~hfedu009/innovations](http://www.csun.edu/~hfedu009/innovations)

This website, supported by the U.S. Department of Education and produced by the California State University at Northridge, is for early intervention service providers, however, numerous resources are provided which would benefit the parents of a child with a hearing loss.

### **NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEARING ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT**

Utah State University

2880 Old Main Hill

Logan, UT 84322

(435) 797-3584

Website: [www.infanthearing.org](http://www.infanthearing.org)

E-mail: [mail@infanthearing.org](mailto:mail@infanthearing.org)

The goal of the National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management at Utah State University is to ensure that all infants and toddlers with hearing loss are identified as early as possible and provided with timely and appropriate audiological, educational and medical intervention.

### **NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING PROGRAM (NHSP)**

**California Department of Health Services**

**Children's Medical Services**

P.O. Box 997413, MS 8103

Sacramento, CA 95899

(916) 322-5794

(877) 388-5301

Website: [www.dhs.ca.gov/pcfh/cms/nhsp](http://www.dhs.ca.gov/pcfh/cms/nhsp)

E-mail: [nhsp3@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:nhsp3@dhcs.ca.gov)

The California Department of Health Services' (DHS) Children's Medical Services (CMS) Branch has implemented a statewide comprehensive Newborn Hearing Screening Program (NHSP). The incidence of permanent significant hearing loss is approximately 2 to 4 per every 1000 infants. It is the most common congenital condition for which there is a screening program. It is estimated that the NHSP will identify 1200 infants with hearing loss each year. Families of infants delivered in DHS approved hospitals will be offered the opportunity to have their babies' hearing screened. Infants who do not pass the screening in the hospital will be referred to DHS approved Hearing Coordination Centers for follow up for additional services.